News release

13 August 2007

More unseasonable weather to come

Forecasters at the Met Office are warning of more unseasonable weather to come with gales and heavy rain affecting the UK this week.

The worst of the weather is likely to be across the western half of the UK with between 30 mm and 60 mm of rain over some upland areas of England and Wales on Tuesday and into Wednesday. It will be very windy too, with south-westerly gales likely to gust to 50 to 60 m.p.h., especially on exposed coasts in the south and west.

Such strong winds and heavy rainfall could lead to some difficult driving conditions and the risk of some localised flooding. The Met Office is working closely with the Highways Agency and Environment Agency to help warn of risk of disruption due to the poor weather.

Keith Groves, Head of Forecasting at the Met Office, said: "We are still in the middle of the summer holidays and we should consider the weather forecast before embarking on leisure activities such as sailing, hill walking or camping."

The Highways Agency said: "The combination of heavy rain and strong winds could lead to some difficult driving conditions, especially for those towing caravans. Drivers are advised to slow down and keep well back from the vehicle in front."

With the Fastnet Race taking place off south-west England this week, the Met Office has been working closely with the organisers throughout the weekend to warn them of the impacts of the unseasonable weather on the race. Doug Mansfield, Met Office Chief Forecaster said: "There is still a very small chance of severe weather disrupting the event."

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